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ABSTRACT

This courseware evaluation rates the Nutri-Calc microcomputer program developed by CAMDE of Tempe, Arizona. (The program--not included in this document--consists of Nutri-Calc, which calculates total nutritional intake and Recommended Daily Allowances, and Calorie-Magic, which calculates individual ideal caloric intake.) Part A describes Nutri-Calc in terms of subject area (food and nutrition) and hardware requirements (IBM-PC or XT, Apple II, MacIntosh, or TRS80) and indicates its suitability for use with students in grade 11 and up. Listed next are accompanying materials (manual) and time estimate (30 minutes). Availability information includes cost ($99.95), policies, and contact address. Part B contains the evaluation criteria in eight categories; reviewer ratings appear as yes, somewhat, no, and not applicable, with explanatory comments. Part C summarizes the evaluation. This program could supplement a nutrition class, but classroom discussion is needed. Instructors were found to be difficult to follow and unclear. Moreover, some program commands do not work, it is difficult to exit, and the manual is not clearly written. A summary section shows that this courseware received overall ratings of "yes" for subject matter and application programs; "somewhat" for technical presentation, student interaction, and documentation; and "not applicable" for program interaction, student evaluation, and work behaviors. The program can be used to supplement class material, with help from the instructor. (SK)

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NUTRI-CALC.

COURSEWARE EVALUATION

FOR

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The evaluation of this courseware program was conducted by a team participating in the Courseware Evaluation Network. The Network, established in 1985, is coordinated by the National Center for Research in Vocational Education under the sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education. The purpose of the Network is to identify and evaluate microcomputer courseware, and to disseminate courseware reviews for vocational and technical education.

Each Network team includes three members, at least one of which is, or recently has been, a vocational or technical teacher in the subject matter area of the courseware being evaluated. The evaluation represents a synthesis of the opinions of the team members. It is suggested that the evaluation be used as a first screening device for courseware and that the teacher also evaluate the courseware program on the basis of specific student needs.

The Courseware Evaluation: Form and Guide used for all of the Network evaluations was developed by the National Center and is available through its cost-recovery system.

CE044396

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FOR RESEARCH IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
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COURSEWARE EVALUATION FORM

NOTE. If you are using this form for the first time, read the instructions in the accompanying Microcomputer Courseware Evaluation Guide.

Evaluator James Biddle, President, Lima Technical College; Sam Bassitt, VP Instruction, LTC
Frank Hill, Assoc. Dir., Ohio State Univ., Lima
Tim Redman, Instructor, OSU, Lima
March 10, 1986

Part A: Courseware Description

In the following sections, record descriptive information about the courseware that you are evaluating.

I. IDENTIFICATION

Program Title Nutri-Calc. Date 1985

Series Title

Vocational Area(s) Home Economics

Subject Area(s) Food and Nutrition: Food Services

Topic(s) Nutrition

Developing Agency CAMDE

Street or P.O. Box 4435 South Rural Road

City Tempe, State AZ Zip 85282 Phone (602) 821-2310

Author(s)

Programmer(s)

II. HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

Microcomputer* IBM-PC or XT
(brand/model)

K Memory Required 64K
(number)

Medium of Transfer (include number of each):

- __ Tape cassette
- __ ROM cartridge
- __ 5¼" Flexible disk
- __ 8" Flexible disk
- __ Other _____ (specify)

Programming Language _____ DOS Specifications _____

Other Specifications Printer Preferred.

Peripherals Needed (check all that apply):

- __ Color monitor
- __ One disk drive
- X Two disk drives
- __ Plotter
- __ Game paddle(s)
- __ Joystick(s)
- __ Modem
- __ Mouse
- __ Printer
- __ Graphics tablet
- __ Light pen
- __ Voice/sound instrument
- __ Clock
- __ Video disk
- __ Touch screen
- __ Ten-key number pad
- __ Other _____ (specify)

*NOTE: Provide the above information for any additional hardware on which this program can be used. Apple II, IIe, IIc, II+, MacIntosh; TRS-80 III, 12,16,4,4P

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III. PROGRAM FEATURES (check all that apply):

- ___ Network version provided
- ___ Multiple copies required
- ___ Program can be modified
- X Program protected
- ___ Data disk needed
- ___ Field-test data available

IV. INSTRUCTIONAL SETTING

Program mode (check all that apply):

- X Application
- ___ Drill and practice
- ___ Educational gaming
- ___ Simulation
- ___ Tutorial
- ___ Other _____ (specify)

Student Target Population (check all that apply):

- X Regular
- ___ Disadvantaged
- ___ Handicapped
- ___ Limited English
- ___ Bilingual
- ___ Gifted

Grade Level (check all that apply):

- ___ K-6
- ___ 7-8
- ___ 9-10
- X 11-12
- X 13-14
- X Adult
- ___ Higher Education

Instructional Grouping (check all that apply):

- X Individual
- X Small group (up to 4)
- X Large group (4 or more)
- ___ competitive interaction
- X cooperative interaction

Prerequisite Student Skills (specify) _____

Accompanying Materials (specify types):

Documentation Loose - Leaf Manual.

Student support materials _____

Teacher support materials _____

Correlated materials _____

Estimated Time for Use 30 Minutes.

V. AVAILABILITY

- ___ Free _____ (copies)
- ___ Loan _____ (time)
- ___ Duplication (requestor supplies disk)
- X Sale $ 99.95
- ___ Rent $ _____ _____ (time)

Copyright Restrictions (explain) Licensed for personal use in business or profession.

Back-up Policy (explain) Allowed to make one back-up copy.

Preview Policy (explain) _____

Update Policy (explain) For a nominal fee if registered.

Contact CAMDE

Street or P O. Box 4435 South Rural Road

City Tempe, State AZ Zip 85282 Phone (602) 821-2310

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Part B: Courseware Evaluation Criteria

Indicate the applicability of each section to the courseware being evaluated by checking either "___ A" (applicable) or "___ N/A" (not applicable). If a section is not applicable, proceed to the next section. If a section is applicable, check the column that indicates how well the courseware meets each criterion. Include any comments.

	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
I. SUBJECT MATTER X A ___ N/A					
1. Subject matter has educational value.	X				
2. Student objectives are stated.		X			Should be supplemented
3. Subject matter is accurate.	X				
4. Subject matter is logically presented.		X			
5. Subject matter is free of race, ethnic, sex, and other stereotypes.	X				
6. Subject matter is on the level of the students.		X			
7. Information and skills presented are comparable to those used in the home, business, or industry.	X				
8. Subject matter motivates students to learn.		X			
9. Subject matter is reviewed and summarized.			X		Will need class discussion
10. Program utilizes the unique capabilities of the microcomputer to present the subject matter.		X			
II. TECHNICAL PRESENTATION X A ___ N/A					
1. Program is free of technical problems.	X				
2. Presentation rate is adequate to maintain interest.		X			Rate will depend on discussion
3. Information on the screen is easy to read.	X				
4. Program is free of spelling and grammatical errors.	X				
5. Program instructions are easy to follow.		X			Difficult
6. Color increases the instructional value of the program.				X	
7. Audio increases the instructional value of the program.				X	
8. Graphics increase the instructional value of the program.		X			Very limited

Part B: Courseware Evaluation Criteria

	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
III. STUDENT INTERACTION X A ___ N/A					
1. Students can use the program with minimal assistance.			X		Will need initial help
2. Students are actively involved in the program.		X			
3. Students control the pace of the program.	X				
4. Students can access the program "menu(s)" to change activities.		X			Difficult to exit
5. Students are permitted to change answers.		X			The way varies
6. Methods of responding correspond to the level of the program.				X	
7. Students' errors of entry are processed so that the program continues to run.			X		
8. Students can access available "help" and "hint" options at any time.			X		
9. Students can enter or exit the program as desired.			X		Difficult to exit
10. Students control the sequence of the program.	X				
IV. PROGRAM INTERACTION ___ A X N/A					
1. Feedback is immediate.					
2. Cues and prompts are provided to assist students in answering correctly.					
3. Feedback reinforces the correct responses.					
4. Feedback is nonthreatening.					
5. Program helps students understand wrong answers.					
6. Program gives the correct answer after a reasonable number of tries.					
7. Positive reinforcement is varied.					
8. Program has the ability to branch/loop depending upon students' performance.					
9. Feedback is on the level of the student.					
V. STUDENT EVALUATION ___ A X N/A					
1. Evaluation provides a means for measuring attainment of objectives.					
2. Program reports which items were missed and which were correct.					

	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
V STUDENT EVALUATION—*Continued*					
3. Individual student performance results are available to the teacher.					
4. Class performance results are available to the teacher.					
5. Program provides for printed copies of evaluations.					
6. Test item formats are suited to the material being tested.					
7. Test items are clearly stated.					
8. Test item bank is provided.					
VI. DOCUMENTATION _X_ A ___ N/A					
1. Documentation is easy to understand.		X			Difficult
2. Documentation is accurate.		X			Some errors
3. Student objectives are stated.				X	
4. Underlying concepts are outlined.				X	
5. Skills to be developed are specified.		X			Will need supplementing
6. Procedures for integrating the program into the curriculum are provided.				X	
7. Follow-up activities are suggested.	X				
8. Documentation explains the intended use of support materials.				X	
9. Sufficient information is provided to operate the program.		X			Need help
VII. WORK BEHAVIORS ___ A _X_ N/A					
1. Program helps students identify their vocational skills.					
2. Program promotes pride in work.					
3. Program promotes productivity.					
4. Program encourages good work habits.					
5. Problem solving is encouraged.					
6. Program promotes good human relations skills.					
7. Program provides an opportunity for work satisfaction and self-fulfillment.					
8. Program encourages creativity.					

Part B: Courseware Evaluation Criteria

	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
VIII. APPLICATION PROGRAMS _X_ A ___ N/A (to be completed for application programs only)					
1. Program is adaptable to the needs of the student.	X				
2. Commands are easily remembered.	X				
3. Information is easily manipulated.		X			
4. Corrections are easy to make.		X			
5. Program includes all necessary variables.	X				
6. Program performs reliably.	X				
7. Program efficiently achieves its intended purpose.	X				
8. Trial data are supplied for learning to run the program.	X				
9. Program provides for use of printer when hard copy of information is advantageous.	X				
10. Program moves from operation to operation efficiently.	X				
11. Program is compatible with other application programs.				X	
12. Program has a supplementary tutorial program available.			X		Would help

Part C: Courseware Evaluation Summary

1. SUMMARY COMMENTS

Identify strengths of the courseware: A good idea for software and a good nutrition class supplement. Needs classroom discussion.

Identify weaknesses of the courseware: Instructions are always difficult to follow and unclear. Start up commands don't work. Some terms not defined. Exit commands are unclear. Difficult to escape. Manual is not clearly written. Material is badly presented.

Describe uses of the courseware in an instructional setting: For use as a supplement to regular class material, with help from instructor.

2. SUMMARY OF SECTION

Rate the quality of the courseware for each applicable section of this form by checking the appropriate column; if not applicable, check N/A.

	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A
I. SUBJECT MATTER: Content has educational value.	X			
II. TECHNICAL PRESENTATION: Program is free of malfunctions.		X		
III. STUDENT INTERACTION: Students are actively involved with the program.		X		
IV. PROGRAM INTERACTION: Feedback is effectively employed.				X
V. STUDENT EVALUATION: Evaluation adequately measures student progress.				X
VI. DOCUMENTATION: Documentation is sufficient to run the program.		X		
VII. WORK BEHAVIORS: Program assists students in developing positive work attitudes and skills.				X
VIII. APPLICATION PROGRAMS: Program performs the task for which it is intended.	X			

3. FINAL RECOMMENDATION

Check your recommendation for the courseware and explain your reasons below

___ Highly recommend
X Recommend
___ Recommend with reservations
___ Do not recommend

The manual is badly written; some commands don't work.